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LETTER DATED 7 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The incident that took place between the army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Karadzic's Serbs in the morning hours of 6 September 1994 at the locality of Proskok has led to various misinterpretations, including the neglect of the important facts, and what concerns us the most is the fabrication of non-existent elements of this event, whereby 20 members of the aggressor's forces were killed.

The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is gravely concerned because of statements delivered by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, who announced that many of the victims were mutilated, disfigured and burned. In this way, Mr. Akashi had falsely represented the clash, despite knowing or at least being in a position to know the facts on the ground, based upon which the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) officials later dismissed such statements.

This has not been the first time that the Special Representative has placed himself in such a situation to have one of his subordinates deny his previously delivered statements. In this case, it is Mr. Tim Spicer, the United Nations Spokesman in Sarajevo, who has withdrawn the allegations that Karadzic's troops were massacred and mutilated.

Simultaneously with these unfounded and unfortunate accusations directed against the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Akashi has, once again, made threats of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air-strikes against it.

The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina expresses its deep regrets and disappointment that the United Nations Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina who has on a number of occasions energetically refused NATO initiatives for the use of NATO air strikes against the deadly actions of Karadzic's Serbs directed against civilians, and which have constituted violations of Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993), now seems to be very much inclined to call in NATO forces and attack the army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who are attempting to defend the free territories of our State.

In the above-mentioned fighting incident that claimed the lives of 20 members of Karadzic's terrorist forces, who have been besieging Sarajevo for more than 30 months, and have been responsible for massacres and death of more than 10,000 of its unarmed civilians, the army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina used small arms, typical for infantry units, whereby they did not violate any of the provisions of the exclusion zone. Furthermore, the clash took place outside the demilitarized zone, a fact confirmed by the appropriate authorities of UNPROFOR.

This group of Karadzic's terrorists, according to the reports of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are most probably known to UNPROFOR officials as well, is part of a much larger formation that has carried out numerous offensive actions south-west of Sarajevo, especially targeting and systematically attacking the "blue routes" - the only route that Sarajevo citizens could have used to enter or exit the city, carrying only the most basic items.

My Government again reaffirms that war and offensive actions are not its choice, but the choice of Karadzic's aggressor forces which have once again been strengthened by their rejection of the Western Contact Group's Plan. We certainly do not expect that the international community would deny the right of the defensive forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to protect its population and territory from the aggressor's attacks, ethnic cleansing, indiscriminate killings and wanton destruction of our towns and villages.

Therefore, misinterpretation of yesterday's clash at Proskok constitutes another attempt to equalize the victim and the aggressor. Misrepresentation of truth or neglect of it will not expedite the peace process. On the contrary, it will only distance us from reaching any settlement because such misrepresentations are useful only to those who have constantly been rejecting peace.

May I ask Your Excellency, for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative